IN MEMORY OF CHADWICK BOSEMAN (1976-2020)

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE
SCRIPT/PLOT

CARLO BARBERI
ART

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

PETER STEIGERWALD
COLORS

TODD McFARLANE
FRANCESCO MATTINA
CARLO BARBERI
COVER ARTISTS

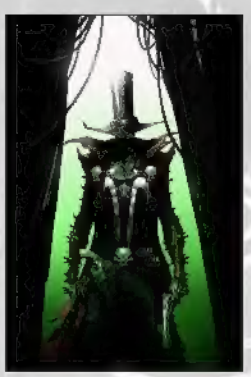
TODD McFARLANE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

THOMAS HEALY
EDITOR

Production Artist
NIKOLETT MIHALKA

Publisher for Image Comics/
Chief Creative Officer
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



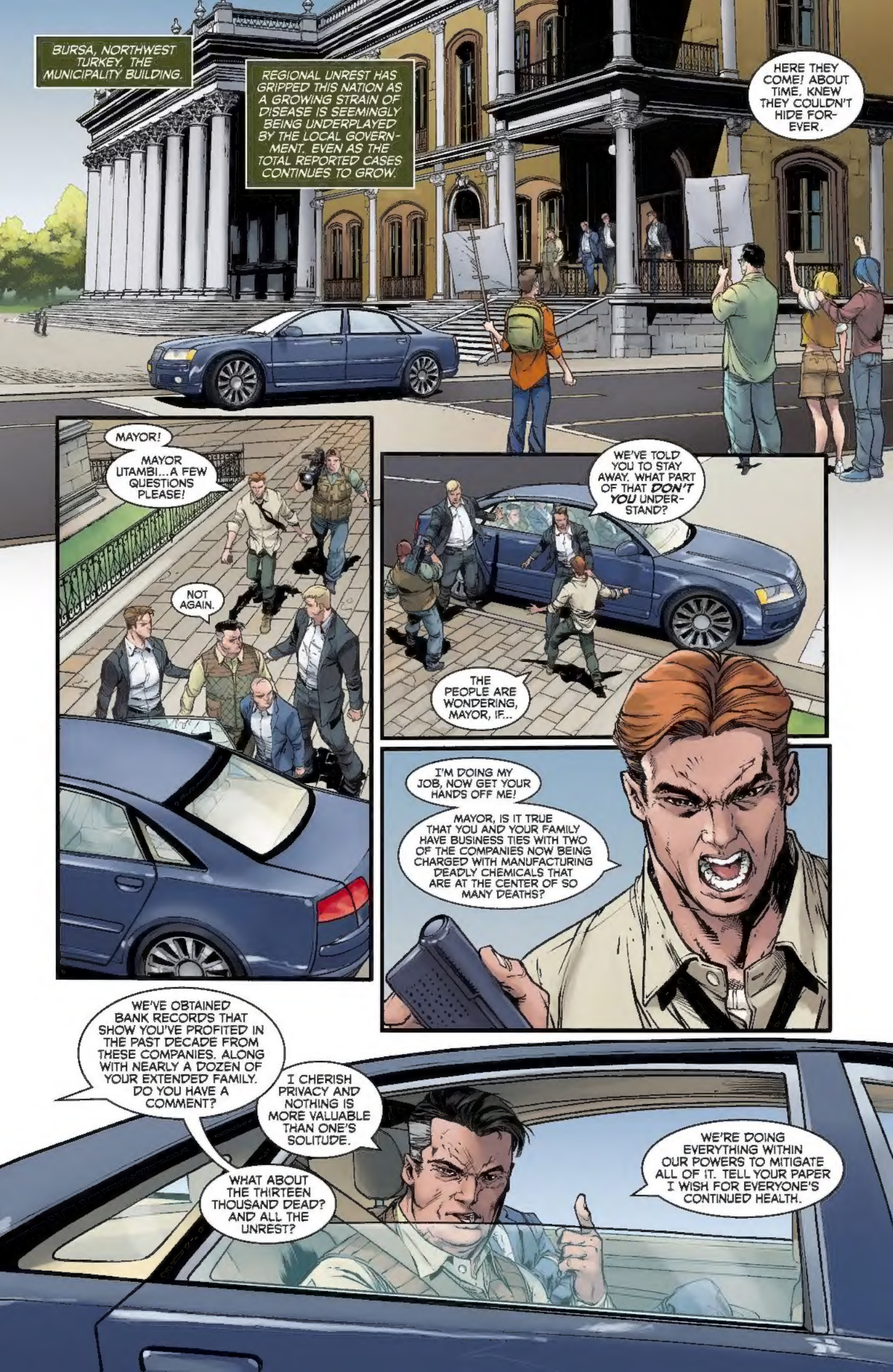
PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

The STORM... begins – SPAWN is on the hunt for someone, or something, insidious! Demons hiding among humans! Secret dealings with Big-Pharma! Dark plans are about to be exposed! There is a STORM coming, and SPAWN is at its center.

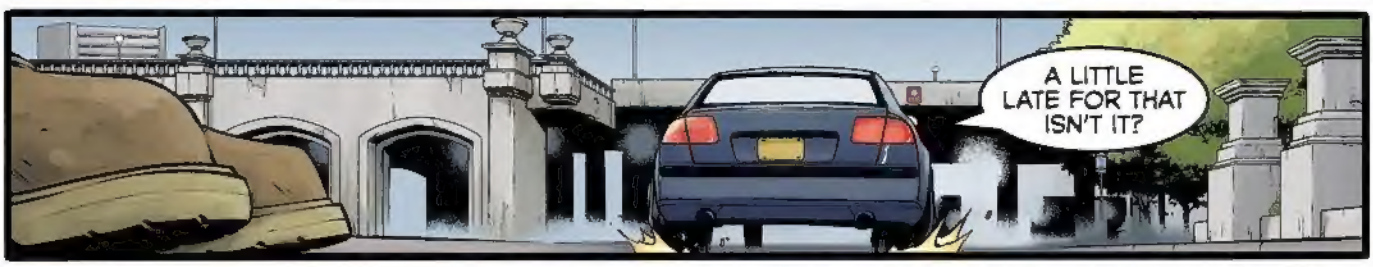
image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
McFARLANE.COM

Spawn #311. October 2020. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2701 NW Vaughn St, Suite 780 Portland, OR 97210 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2020 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2020 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.


BURSA, NORTHWEST TURKEY. THE MUNICIPALITY BUILDING.
REGIONAL UNREST HAS GRIPPED THIS NATION AS A GROWING STRAIN OF DISEASE IS SEEMINGLY BEING UNDERPLAYED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. EVEN AS THE TOTAL REPORTED CASES CONTINUES TO GROW.
HERE THEY COME! ABOUT TIME. KNEW THEY COULDN'T HIDE FOREVER.
MAYOR!
MAYOR UTAMBI...A FEW QUESTIONS PLEASE!
NOT AGAIN.
WE'VE TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY. WHAT PART OF THAT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
THE PEOPLE ARE WONDERING, MAYOR, IF...
I'M DOING MY JOB, NOW GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
MAYOR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE BUSINESS TIES WITH TWO OF THE COMPANIES NOW BEING CHARGED WITH MANUFACTURING DEADLY CHEMICALS THAT ARE AT THE CENTER OF SO MANY DEATHS?
WE'VE OBTAINED BANK RECORDS THAT SHOW YOU'VE PROFITED IN THE PAST DECADE FROM THESE COMPANIES. ALONG WITH NEARLY A DOZEN OF YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT?
I CHERISH PRIVACY AND NOTHING IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ONE'S SOLITUDE.
WHAT ABOUT THE THIRTEEN THOUSAND DEAD? AND ALL THE UNREST?
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWERS TO MITIGATE ALL OF IT. TELL YOUR PAPER I WISH FOR EVERYONE'S CONTINUED HEALTH.

YOU SAID THIS WASN'T GOING TO GET PUBLIC?
IT WASN'T.
SOMEONE MUST HAVE LEAKED IT. WE'RE LOOKING INTO IT NOW.
People
ARE

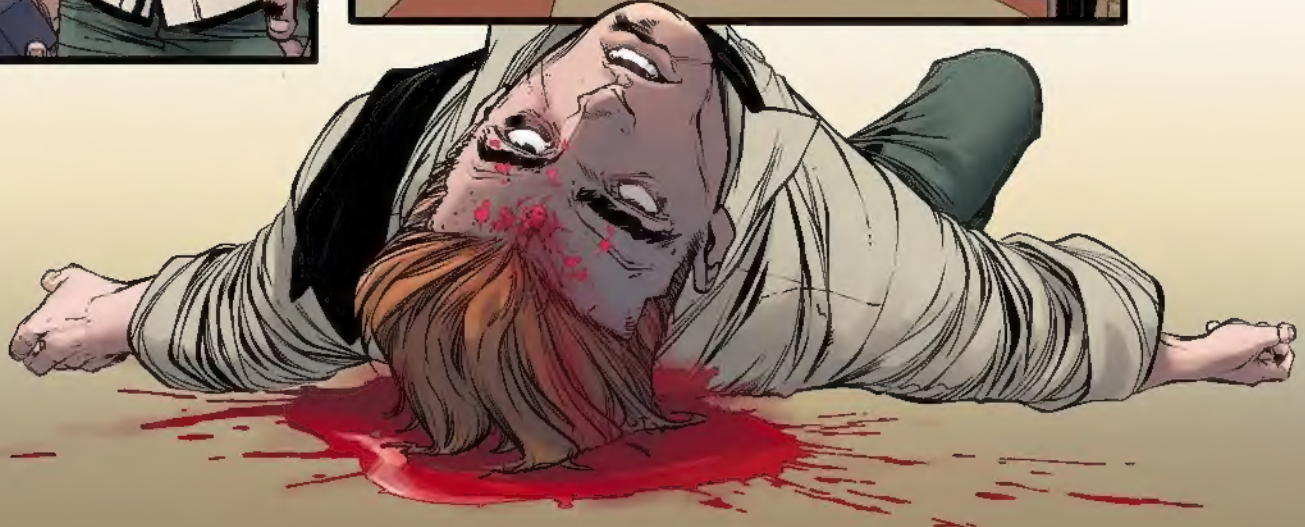

A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT ISN'T IT?

LOOK AT HIM RUN. GODDAMN COWARD.
WHAT'D YOU THINK HE WAS GOING TO DO?
THEY CAN'T DEFLECT FOREVER, ESPECIALLY IF WE CAN PIECE THOSE BANK RECORDS TOGETHER.
GAVIN, WE DON'T HAVE SHIT. YOU KNOW THAT? I MEAN IT WAS A HELLUVA BLUFF, NICE ACTING THERE, BUT WE NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PATH.
MAYBE.

A SHORT DRIVE BACK TO THEIR HOTEL.
YOU STILL HUNGRY?
YOU BET! LET ME GO UPSTAIRS AND HOP IN THE SHOWER FIRST. MEET YOU HERE IN THIRTY MINUTES.

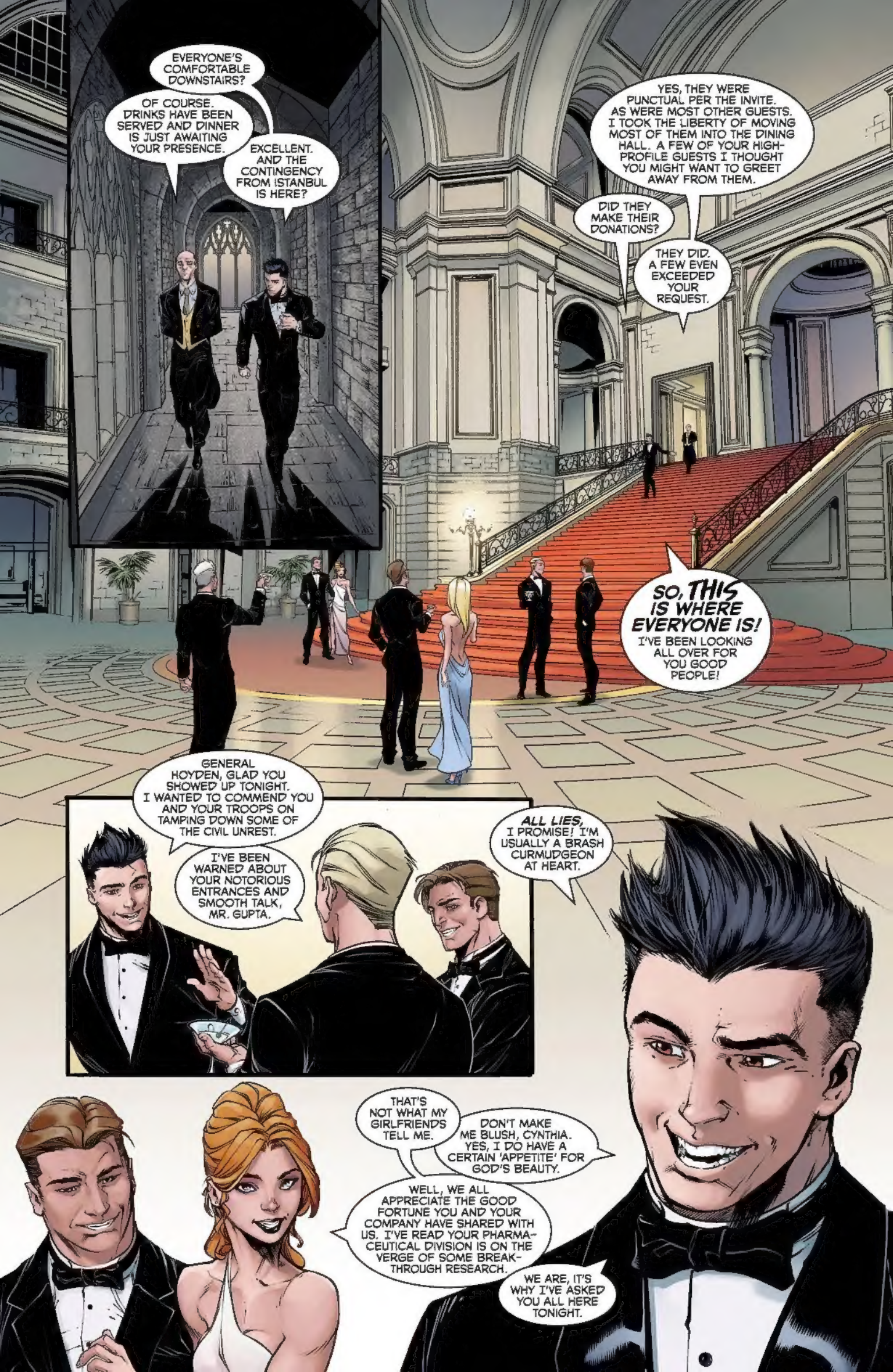
27
Click

FIP



HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY.
AS NIGHT FALLS, THE CREATURES WHO THRIVE IN DARKNESS EMERGE. IT'S THEIR TIME TO PLAY.
TO MORPH.
TO TRANSFORM AND BOND TOGETHER INTO A POWER IN WHICH THE "WHOLE" IS MUCH, MUCH STRONGER THAN ITS PARTS!
KNOCK KNOCK

SIR, MOST OF THE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE INQUIRING WHEN YOU MIGHT MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE.
KNOCK KNOCK
WHAT SHOULD I TELL THEM?
SIR?
COMING.
JUST TIDYING UP.
WITH ITS HUNGER FED, THE CREATURE ASSUMES THE ROLE IT HAS BEEN PLAYING FOR DECADES. A ROLE PAVED BY OTHERS JUST LIKE HIM, WHO'VE MADE SURE THE LEVERS OF GOVERNMENT POWER WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE HANDS OF THOSE NOT BORN HUMAN--SO BEST TO CONTROL THE HUMANS.


EVERYONE'S COMFORTABLE DOWNSTAIRS?
OF COURSE. DRINKS HAVE BEEN SERVED AND DINNER IS JUST AWAITING YOUR PRESENCE.
EXCELLENT. AND THE CONTINGENCY FROM ISTANBUL IS HERE?
YES, THEY WERE PUNCTUAL PER THE INVITE. AS WERE MOST OTHER GUESTS. I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF MOVING MOST OF THEM INTO THE DINING HALL. A FEW OF YOUR HIGH-PROFILE GUESTS I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO GREET AWAY FROM THEM.
DID THEY MAKE THEIR DONATIONS?
THEY DID. A FEW EVEN EXCEEDED YOUR REQUEST.
SO, THIS IS WHERE EVERYONE IS! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU GOOD PEOPLE!
GENERAL HOYDEN, GLAD YOU SHOWED UP TONIGHT. I WANTED TO COMMEND YOU AND YOUR TROOPS ON TAMPING DOWN SOME OF THE CIVIL UNREST.
I'VE BEEN WARNED ABOUT YOUR NOTORIOUS ENTRANCES AND SMOOTH TALK, MR. GUPTA.
ALL LIES, I PROMISE! I'M USUALLY A BRASH CURMUDGEON AT HEART.
THAT'S NOT WHAT MY GIRLFRIENDS TELL ME.
DON'T MAKE ME BLUSH, CYNTHIA. YES, I DO HAVE A CERTAIN 'APPETITE' FOR GOD'S BEAUTY.
WELL, WE ALL APPRECIATE THE GOOD FORTUNE YOU AND YOUR COMPANY HAVE SHARED WITH US. I'VE READ YOUR PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION IS ON THE VERGE OF SOME BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH.
WE ARE, IT'S WHY I'VE ASKED YOU ALL HERE TONIGHT.

THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED MILES TO THE SOUTHEAST IN CALCUTTA, INDIA. THERE ARE CREATURES OF ALL SORTS OUT TONIGHT.
THIS ONE IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN HUNTING, NOT AN ENEMY, LIKE MOST DAYS, BUT SOMEONE WHO SHOULDN'T EVEN BE WALKING, LET ALONE ALIVE.
THEIR LOYALTY SHOULD HAVE BEEN EMBEDDED INTO THEM WHEN HE AWOKE THEM FROM THEIR DEATHS. YET, SOMEHOW, THEY ARE HEARING THE CALL OF ANOTHER MASTER.
AND IF WHAT SPAWN SUSPECTS IS TRUE, THEN THE RIP IN TIME HE CAUSED*--THAT'S SOMEHOW VAULTED AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF OTHER HELLSPAWN FORWARD TO OUR PRESENT DAY--MAY ALSO BE THE REASON WHY SPAWN IS MISSING A FEW OF HIS "UNDEAD WARRIORS."
*issue 301 - TODD

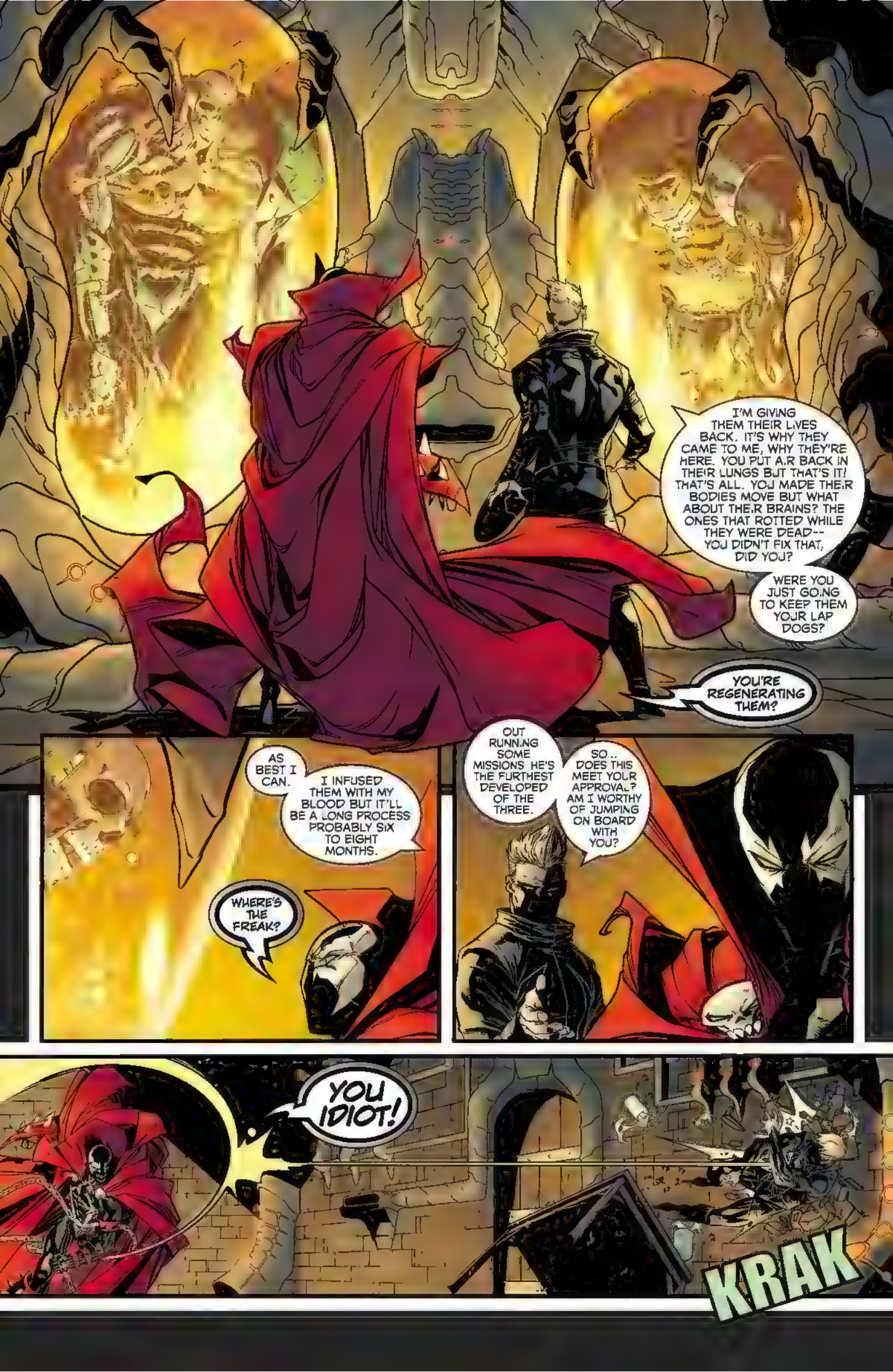
SPAWN ISN'T WILLING TO TOLERATE THAT.
AND AFTER HIS RECENT BATTLE WITH THE 'MEDIEVAL' SPAWN, HE HAS NO IDEA IF HE CAN TRUST HIS OWN INSTINCTS ANYMORE.
FOR A SOLDIER LIKE AL SIMMONS, DOUBTING YOUR OWN ABILITIES IS SOMETHING YOUR ENEMIES SEEK OUT SO THEY CAN ELIMINATE YOU.
SO, INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THEM TO SHOW... HE'LL HUNT THEM DOWN INSTEAD.
LATER.
HELLO, AL.
SIT DOWN, JIM.
NICE TO FINALLY MEET FACE TO FACE.
WHERE ARE THEY?
THAT'S IT? THAT'S HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO DOWN? YOU JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND START MAKING DEMANDS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE CLEVERER THAN THAT, PLUS YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH ENEMIES ALREADY, I WOULDN'T BE TRYING TO ADD TO THAT.
NOT WHEN WE COULD BOTH BE OF USE TO EACH OTHER. NOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

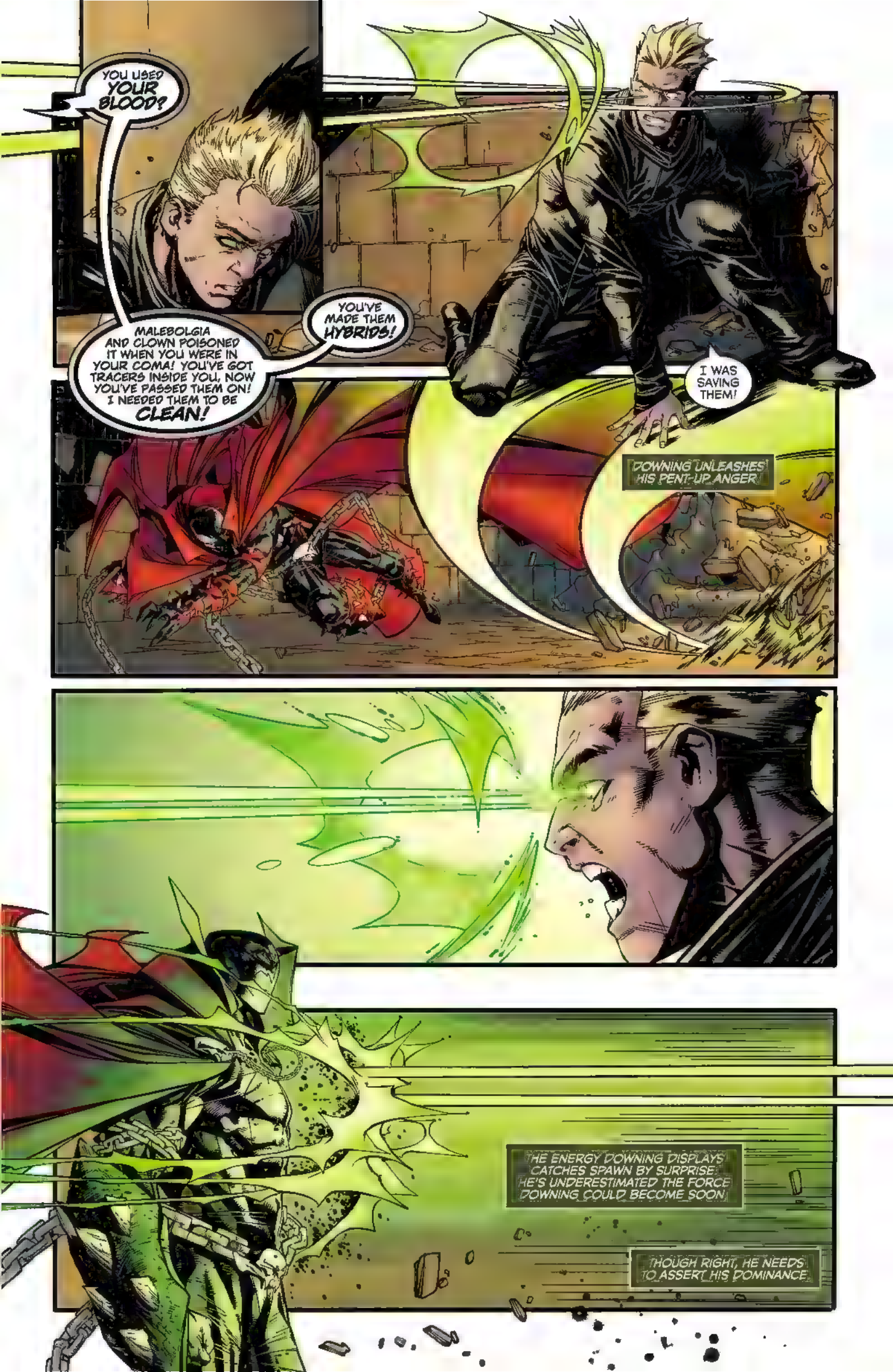
I WANT MY TEAM BACK.
YOUR TEAM?! THAT'S NOT HOW THIS IS GOING TO WORK, DUDE.
LOOK, WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING. SCREW HEAVEN AND HELL, I'M WITH YOU ON THAT BUT THIS NEW WAR YOU'VE STARTED, YOU DON'T GET TO RUN THE SHOW. YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE...YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, RIGHT?
THERE'S MORE OF US NOW.
AND THE MIGHTY JIM DOWNING NOW HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.
NOT ALL OF THEM.
BUT HERE'S WHAT I DO KNOW, YOU'VE SWATTED A HORNET'S NEST--A COUPLE TIMES!
FIRST YOU TRAPPED THEM HERE ON EARTH. BOTH SIDES ARE NOW PISSED OFF! INSTEAD OF HEAVEN AND HELL BEING AT ***EACH OTHERS' THROATS*** THEY'RE BANDING TOGETHER. BECAUSE IF THEY CAN'T GET BACK HOME THEN THEY'LL BURN EARTH TO THE GROUND INSTEAD!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
YAH? THEN WHY'RE YOU HERE? WHY AREN'T YOU CHASING THE BAD GUYS?
BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT ***WHO*** THE BAD GUYS ARE.
LIKE YOU SAID, EVERYONE'S PICKING A SIDE AND AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO ACCEPT THAT SOME-ONE LIKE YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT SIDE YOU'RE ON--
--I STILL HAVE TO ASK.
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF YOUR COMA BUT IF YOUR POWERS ARE ANYWHERE CLOSE TO MINE, YOU KNOW YOU'RE A TARGET TOO.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CARE THAT YOU'RE THE NEWEST AND MOST INEXPERIENCED. SHIT, MY GUESS IS THEY'LL HUNT YOU FIRST SINCE YOU'LL BE AN EASY KILL FOR THEM. BECAUSE WHAT YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT IS THAT WE'RE ALL LEAVING A *"TRAIL"* BEHIND WITH OUR ACTIONS.
SO, I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY CY-GOR, OVERT-KILL AND FREAK CAME YOUR WAY, BUT THEY'RE TAINTED. THE MOMENT I RESURRECTED THEM THEY BECAME BEACONS OUR ENEMIES CAN TRACK-- JUST LIKE I DID WITH YOU.
THE REASON I WANT THEM BACK IS TO PROTECT YOU. LOOK WHAT THEY DID IN TURKEY LAST WEEK. THEY TORE THROUGH A HALF DOZEN VILLAGES LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. I HAD A SPAWN READING ON MY COMPUTER OVER THERE, ***NOW IT'S GONE!*** WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT READY FOR THEM TO FIND YOU... ***NOT YET!***

MOVING AROUND SO MUCH IS PROBABLY THE ONLY THING THAT'S SAVED YOU SO FAR.
I'VE HAD A COUPLE RUN-INS WITH THEM ALREADY. I DID OKAY.
ARE YOU LISTENING?!
THOSE WERE SCOUTS! YOU GET THAT? NOT WARRIORS OR HUNTERS! THEY'RE NOTHING! ON A SCALE OF ONE TO HUNDRED THEY'RE A TWO...! SO, IF IT TOOK YOU MORE THAN FIVE SECONDS TO OBLITERATE THEM, YOU'RE MORE F*CKED THAN I THOUGHT!
HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?
DOESN'T MATTER.
OF COURSE, IT MATTERS! EVERYTHING MATTERS!
YOU'D BETTER COOL OFF, AL, I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE!
GOOD! THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

A HEARTBEAT PASSES AS JIM DOWNING CONTEMPLATES ATTACKING, BEFORE WISELY DECIDING TO BACK DOWN.
I WANT TO SEE THEM.
OUR TWO HEROES ARE ENVELOPED IN A BLANKET OF ENERGY EMANATING FROM EACH OF THEM.
MOMENTS LATER THEY REFORM IN THE SHADOWS OF SOME HIDDEN DUNGEON.
DOWNING LEADS. SPAWN FOLLOWS.
WHAT... ARE YOU DOING TO THEM?


I'M GIVING THEM THEIR LIVES BACK. IT'S WHY THEY CAME TO ME, WHY THEY'RE HERE. YOU PUT AIR BACK IN THEIR LUNGS BUT THAT'S IT! THAT'S ALL. YOU MADE THEIR BODIES MOVE BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR BRAINS? THE ONES THAT ROTTED WHILE THEY WERE DEAD-- YOU DIDN'T FIX THAT, DID YOU?
WERE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP THEM YOUR LAP DOGS?
YOU'RE REGENERATING THEM?
AS BEST I CAN.
I INFUSED THEM WITH MY BLOOD BUT IT'LL BE A LONG PROCESS PROBABLY SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS.
WHERE'S THE FREAK?
OUT RUNNING SOME MISSIONS HE'S THE FURTHEST DEVELOPED OF THE THREE.
SO... DOES THIS MEET YOUR APPROVAL? AM I WORTHY OF JUMPING ON BOARD WITH YOU?
YOU IDIOT!
KRAK


YOU USED YOUR BLOOD?
MALEBOLGIA AND CLOWN POISONED IT WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR COMA! YOU'VE GOT TRACERS INSIDE YOU, NOW YOU'VE PASSED THEM ON! I NEEDED THEM TO BE CLEAN!
YOU'VE MADE THEM HYBRIDS!
I WAS SAVING THEM!
DOWNING UNLEASHES HIS PENT-UP ANGER
THE ENERGY DOWNING DISPLAYS CATCHES SPAWN BY SURPRISE. HE'S UNDERESTIMATED THE FORCE DOWNING COULD BECOME SOON.
THOUGH RIGHT, HE NEEDS TO ASSERT HIS DOMINANCE.

AND AS MUCH AS HE DOESN'T WANT TO WASTE UNNECESSARY POWER, GIVEN HIS WEAKENED STATE, SPAWN KNOWS HE NEEDS TO BE THE ALPHA DOG NOW.
I MADE YOU!* HOPING YOU'D BE SOMEONE SPECIAL. SOMEONE THE WORLD COULD COUNT ON! IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT FOR THAT...
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU OUT RIGHT NOW!
*Way back in issue 185 -- TODD

YOU NEED TO GET WAY STRONGER. OR YOU'LL BE USELESS TO ME.
NOW GET THEM OUT OF THAT MACHINERY.
GO TO HELL! I DON'T ANSWER TO YOU!
FINE.
THUNK
crak
tink
sh-kak

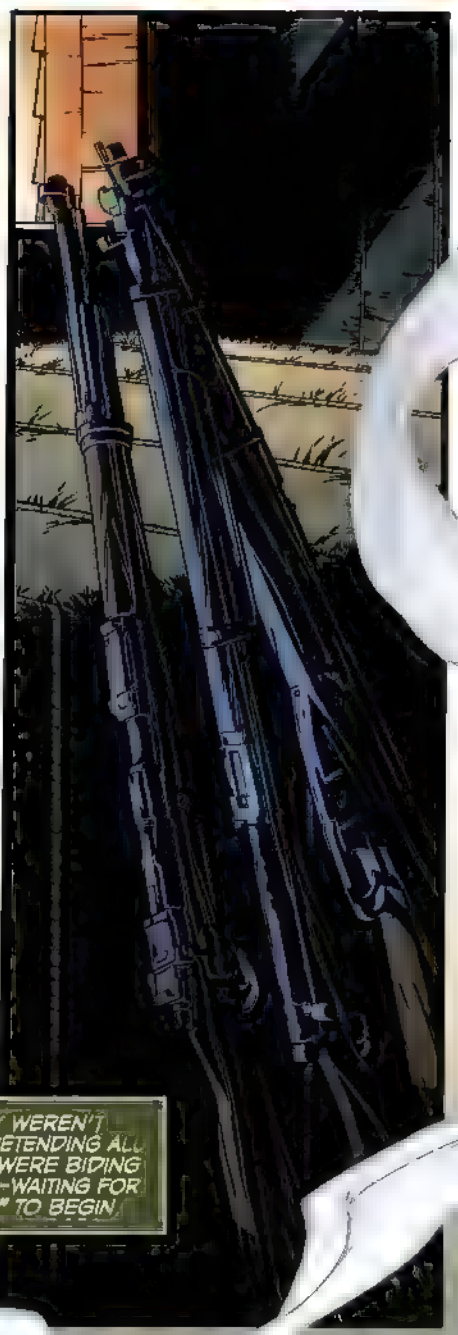
RAVAGE
MASTER?
HE CAN'T SURVIVE OUT OF HIS CHAMBER! I HAVE TO PUT HIS TUBES BACK IN! OVERT-KILL, GET YOUR TUBES!
DON'T WORRY, HE'LL SURVIVE.

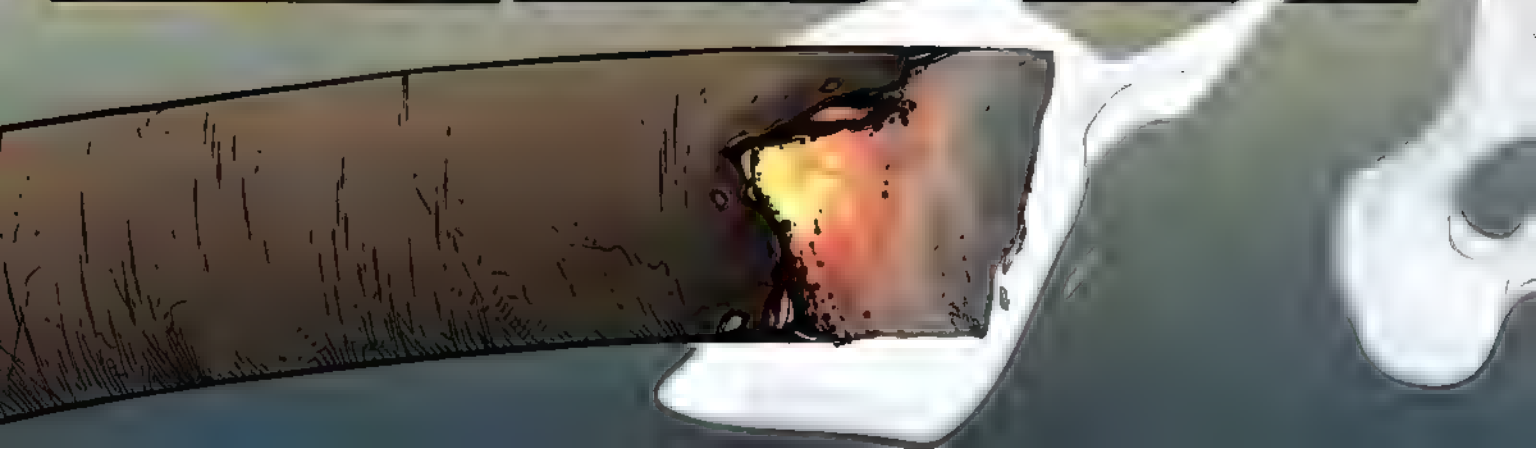
THIS ONE WAS BUILT TO ENDURE ANY-THING.
I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CY-GOR AND FREAK.
THEY'RE... COMING. LIKE YOU... TOLD US, MASTER. THE BAD ONES... ARE COMING.
THEY ARE. BUT WE'LL BE READY.

NORTH DAKOTA
THEY WERE GOOD FOLKS. LIVED IN THESE PARTS FOR DECADES AND ALWAYS HAD A SMILE ON THEIR FACES AND A KIND WORD TO SAY.
NEVER CAUSED ANY TROUBLE. AT LEAST NONE THE LOCALS KNEW ABOUT.

BUT, HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE. HE HAD TO KILL THEM.

AND IT WAS EASY FOR HIM TO DO, EVEN WHEN THE ELDER LADY SCREAMED FOR MERCY.


SEE, THEY ACTUALLY WEREN'T HUMAN. THEY'D BEEN PRETENDING ALL THOSE YEARS AS THEY WERE BIDING THEIR TIME, PREPARING--WAITING FOR THEIR "GREAT WAR" TO BEGIN.



Click
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM...
...GUNSLINGER SPAWN
HAS BEEN MAKING PREPARATIONS OF HIS OWN. THEY JUST HAPPENED TO GET IN HIS WAY!
TO BE CONTINUED

0:0:4:1

SPAWN
TODD MCFARLANE •
JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
DARK HORROR
IN STORES NOW!

TODD MCFARLANE ▪ JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

ENEMY OF THE STATE

SPAWN®

COLLECTING ISSUES #284-290

SPAWN
COLLECTING ISSUES #291-297
VENGEANCE
The Life and Death of Al Simmons
TODD MCFARLANE ▪ JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED COMICS FOR EVERY READER

Snap up the hottest new titles from **IMAGE COMICS** and build out your collection of the best storytelling in Fantasy, Science Fiction, Adventure, Mystery, Horror and beyond!